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Summary record of the 38th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 15 November 1999, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Ms. Wensley ..... (Australia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Mselle

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Organization of work

1. **The Chairman** said that as the Committee was falling steadily behind schedule it would be necessary to hold evening meetings in order to meet the deadline of 10 December set by the President of the General Assembly. She was also mindful that Ramadan began on 9 December. She could confirm that no meetings would be scheduled for the Friday following Thanksgiving.

2. **Mr. Moktefi** (Algeria) said that his delegation wished to draw attention to a procedural problem: the original programme of work proposed by the Bureau had not been formally approved by the Committee. Like other delegations, his own had not disputed the proposals but it hoped that in future programmes of work would be formally approved after delegations had had time to consider them.

3. **Mr. Sulaiman** (Syrian Arab Republic) noted that a meeting had been allocated for the review of General Assembly resolution 48/218 B (agenda item 163). It had appeared in the informal consultations that some delegations would prefer to postpone the item, which the Committee, at the fifty-third session, had decided to defer to the current session on the understanding that consideration of it would be completed at an early stage, before the proposed programme budget was taken up. His delegation questioned why the committee had discussed the estimates for the Office of Internal Oversight Services in the context of consideration of the proposed programme budget before the review had been completed and the mandate of the Office renewed.

4. **Mr. Orr** (Canada) said that there had been an understanding that the Committee would try to reach a decision concerning the Office of Internal Oversight Services, but that had required political will on all sides. It would be wrong to set aside one section of the proposed programme budget pending agreement on other sections or on the review.

5. **The Chairman** said that the Bureau was monitoring progress in the informal consultations and was considering scheduling additional meetings with a view to reaching decisions on that and all other pending matters.

6. **Mr. Sareva** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the members of the European Union, said that they were resolved to take a flexible attitude to the question of evening meetings but were mindful of the concern of their Moslem colleagues about Ramadan.

The meeting rose at 3.35 p.m.